

REMARKS

Claims 28, 30, and 32 are pending in the present application.

At the outset, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Hines for the indication that the anticipation rejection of Claims 33-35 over Thomas et al and the rejection of Claims 33-40 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, have been withdrawn (March 9, 2004 Office Action, page 2, paragraph 2). Reconsideration of the current grounds of rejection is requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

The rejection of Claims 25-27 and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Thomas et al in view of Gibbons is obviated by amendment.

Consistent with the Examiner's recognition that Claim 28 is free of the art of record; Applicants have amended the claims to limit the same to the scope of previously pending Claim 28. In view of this amendment, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The rejection of Claims 25-40 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is obviated by amendment.

The claims have been amended so as to be free of the criticisms set forth by the Examiner. Specifically, the claims indicated by the Examiner to be duplicative have been canceled. In addition, Claim 33, which the Examiner found to be ambiguous, has been canceled. In view of these amendments, Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

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Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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